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its forms, all across Asia from the Sea of Azof and the Black Sea to the Japan Sea, and from the Tropic of Cancer to 48° N. Latitude, in Manchuria.

Beebe's statement that in a single ricefield in China representatives of three recognized forms of *P. colchicus* were obtained and two undescribed ones illustrates the variability of the characters that might and often have been regarded as of systematic value. No less than 35 forms of this species have been named of which Beebe recognizes 23, admitting at the same time our very imperfect knowledge of the birds in much of their wide range, and the lack of suitable series of specimens for study and comparison. We shall look with interest for the fourth and concluding volume of this notable work which the publishers promise before the close of the year and congratulate both them and the author upon the painstaking care and energy which have produced such splendid results.—W. S.

**Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands'.<sup>1</sup>**—This triple installment consists entirely of plates, covering many of the Hawks, Eagles, Quail, Shore-birds, Rails and Cranes, the thirty plates bearing numbers between 89 and 183. They are of the same high quality as those in preceding parts and, although the large size of some of the figures and the crowding on certain of the plates detract from their artistic beauty, they are admirable for purposes of identification while the representation of the various plumages adds materially to their value. The publisher is making excellent progress with the plates and promises the letter press in succeeding parts.—W. S.

**Swann's revised 'Synopsis of the Accipitres'.<sup>1</sup>**—Mr. Swann after a further study of his subject decided to issue an entirely new edition. This follows exactly the style of the original edition but contains many additions and changes in nomenclature, and some alteration in the systematic arrangement. The author has received assistance and criticism from many sources and has had access to a manuscript list of Accipitres prepared recently by Mr. W. L. Sclater, all of which have helped to make the list as complete "as human exertion" can make it, though the author admits that further corrections, etc., are inevitable. The number of species now

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<sup>1</sup> Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Gravenhage Martinus Nyhoff. Afl. 10-12.

<sup>1</sup> A Synopsis of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey). By H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Corresponding Fellow, Amer. Orn. Union. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected throughout. London. Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 38, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, W. C. 2, and 28, Essex Street, Strand, W. C. 2, Price 6s. per part. Part I (Sept. 28, 1921) pp. 1-63; Part II. (Jan. 3, 1922). pp. 65-122; Part III, (Feb. 16, 1922) pp. 123-178 plus addendum to pp. 3-4 and Errata et Addenda i-iii; Part IV, (May 20, 1922) pp. 179-233 plus title, preface and index, i-viii and 1 page Errata et Addenda.)